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County aide sues TV for 'Nazi' libel

NEW YORK — Disputing claims he is a Nazi war criminal, Tchebina Soobzokov, a Passaic County, N.J., purchasing inspector, has filed a \$5-million libel suit against a television network.

The suit, filed in Manhattan federal court, names the Columbia Broadcasting System; Chris Bergen, reporter; Barbara Gordon, producer and writer; and Anthony P. Hatch, executive producer, as defendants.

Soobzokov, of 704 14th Ave., Paterson, charged he was libeled in the CBS program, "Shadows Behind the Golden Door," aired on Jan. 13 and 18.

The suit alleges the program mentioned his name and address and "falsely described him as a Nazi war criminal... who committed or participated in war crimes while serving in the German Army during World War II."

FURTHER, Soobzokov charges, the program alleged he entered the United States with a "false visa" and was "secretly and deliberately brought to the United States with the sponsorship of a powerful ethnic and religious group." Also the program inquired as to why he has been allowed to remain in this country.

Soobzokov also contends after the program airings

he "called the network," spoke to Mrs. Gordon, who "then hung up on him" when he denied the accusations.

The program said Soobzokov was one of 33 alleged Nazi war criminals living in this country and among the 10 living in the New York, New Jersey-Connecticut vicinity.

A native of Russia, Soobzokov is on a list of alleged war criminals being investigated by the Immigration and Naturalization Service. In addition to several other federal agencies.

AFTER FILING the suit, his lawyer said Soobzokov had been serving in the Russian army, was captured by the Germans, but he escaped, taking a band of prisoners with him.

Further, it was alleged by the lawyer that Soobzokov and the others obtained German uniforms and made their way to Italy, Jordan and finally to the United States.

Active in Paterson's White Russian community for years, Soobzokov is chief investigator for the Passaic County purchasing department.

Soobzokov, according to the initial charges made against him in June 1973, is alleged to have committed atrocities in Byelorussia and Hungary in the war while serving with the German Waffen SS.

He has denied the accusations.

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